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SUBJECT: Soviet-German Relations

Dr. Otto Brautigam of the Foreign Ministry's Eastern Division has told us of an interview which is said to have taken place in the office of Soviet High Commissioner G. M. Pushkin about two weeks ago. The interview reportedly was given to a Bavarian radio correspondent who subsequently came to the Eastern Division to report details of it to Gustav Hilger, whom he had known previously.

According to Brautigam, the correspondent was welcomed effusively by Pushkin who reportedly said: "Ah, at last a West German has come to see me." Pushkin is said to have spoken enthusiastically about the assumption of diplomatic relations with West Germany and to have said that they (the Soviets) had already given some thought to the individuals who were suitable as the first chiefs of missions. He said that they thought that Former High Commissioner Vladimir Semenov, who reportedly was present at the interview, should be the logical candidate from the Soviet side, and that Thomas Dehler, Federal Chairman of the FDP; Karl Pfeleiderer, FDP Bundestag deputy; or Peter Pfeiffer, former German Foreign Service officer presently serving in the Foreign Ministry, would be logical and acceptable from the West German side. Pfeiffer at one time was nominated but rejected for the position of German observer at the United Nations.

Brautigam's main inference from this reported interview was that it demonstrated again, occurring as it did shortly after the Bundestag's ratification of the Paris agreements, that the Soviets have not reacted very strongly to this fact and are not disposed to let it deter them from at least ostensible encouragement of Soviet-West German relations.

Raymond E. Lisle
Raymond E. Lisle, Deputy Director,
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